

recreation areas. When the factors of general soil suitability are added to the unique and extensive waters available, then the recreation development potential becomes very great.

Needed Recreation Facilities - The only public recreation facilities in the Albemarle Area are those owned and operated by the state and federal government. There is not a single municipal or county recreation facility or park in the entire region. None of the governmental units has an administrative organization to provide a public recreation program. In spite of the region's abundant recreation resources and potential, very few facilities are available to the average resident.

There are some fine private recreation facilities and programs, but their services are of necessity limited to a small portion of the population. The general lack of recreation facilities and programs is not only a handicap for the population now living in the area, but it adversely affects the drive to improve the living environment and attract new businesses and industries.

If the region's future recreation needs can be adequately anticipated, it will be possible to build a system that can serve not only the expected future population, but that can also offer facilities and programs for visitors as well. City and county parks, beaches, marinas, community centers, playfields, and multiple use areas are all needed. Because of the rapid rise in land costs, a comprehensive recreation plan should be drawn up as soon as possible to provide a guide for land acquisition and development. The system could best be designed on a regional scale, but if necessary, could be handled on a county basis. Many of the needed facilities could be located to serve more than one county.

Water Use

Map 17 shows the existing water uses in the Albemarle Area. The restricted areas in the Albemarle Sound are used in the daytime by the military for test purposes in connection with a Naval Experimental Facility at Harvey's Point in Perquimans County. The prohibited military area off Cape Hatteras and Ocracoke in the Atlantic Ocean has mines on the bottom and can be used for navigation but not for anchorage or trawling. The areas shown as public wildlife refuges are part of the national wildlife facilities in Hyde and Dare Counties. Another private wildlife refuge area is located in Currituck Sound. This area is protected from hunters during the winter months.

Crab spawning and potting areas, public oyster beds, and polluted areas are designated and controlled by the N.C. Division of Commercial and Sports Fishing. The division has authority to change boundaries